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Chairman: Mr. Galuška ..... (Czech Republic)

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00-24360 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 3.15 p.m.

Agenda item 112: Promotion and protection of the rights of children (*continued*) (A/54/98, A/54/265, A/54/411, A/54/419 and A/54/430)

1. **Ms. Liira** (Finland), speaking on behalf of the European Union, said that although much progress had been achieved over the past 10 years since the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, children remained critically vulnerable and work must continue to promote and protect their rights. In order to implement the Convention, national legislation needed to be enacted. The European Union was concerned about the large number of reservations to the Convention, especially those which were contrary to its object and purpose. With regard to the right to life, the most fundamental human right, the European Union strongly appealed to all States that still maintained the death penalty to comply with their obligations under international law by not imposing the death penalty on juvenile offenders. The European Union fully supported the work of the Committee on the Rights of the Child and encouraged it to identify measures that could be adopted to improve its working methods, for example increasing the number of its members. The European Union commended the work of various United Nations bodies in promoting child health and welfare and underlined the importance of the active participation of all actors within the United Nations system in the preparatory work for the special session of the General Assembly to be held in 2001.

2. With regard to education, Governments had the main responsibility for ensuring equal access for all children; discrimination against certain categories of children, such as children in prison, children belonging to minorities, indigenous children, immigrants, refugees and children in armed conflict must be eradicated. With regard to the rights of the girl child, the European Union supported all efforts to abolish female genital mutilation and other harmful practices and underlined the need to eradicate gender stereotyping and prejudices, and to promote equal opportunities for both sexes. Governments must translate into concrete action their commitment to the progressive elimination of child labour; all the forces of society must be mobilized to combat that phenomenon. In that context the European Union welcomed the adoption in June 1999 of the International Labour Organization (ILO) Convention No. 182 concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour.

3. With regard to the situation of children in armed conflicts, the European Union acknowledged the valuable work carried out by many non-governmental organizations; that work needed to be continued, however, and more attention needed to be paid to the situation of girls in armed conflicts and displaced girls. Concerted political and diplomatic pressure must be placed on, and legal action taken against, those who violated the rights of the child during situations of armed conflict. The European Union noted with satisfaction the attention given to the issue by the Security Council. An important task in the near future was to raise the minimum legal age for the participation of children in armed conflicts; it was necessary to work hard in order to finalize the draft optional protocol on that issue. Children must be given priority in all efforts to build peace and resolve conflicts. The rehabilitation and reintegration of child soldiers and other child victims of conflicts must be ensured, and the special needs of children with disabilities must be taken into account. The problems caused by landmines must also be effectively tackled, and trafficking in small arms needed to be controlled as it facilitated the involvement of children in combat. In that context, the European Union expressed its support to Mr. Olara Otunnu, Special Representative of the Secretary-General, and its appreciation for his efforts to mobilize official and public opinion. The European Union encouraged him to continue his field visits and believed that it was important for all parties concerned to follow up effectively the recommendations made during those visits.

4. Strong national action and effective international cooperation were needed to combat the sexual abuse and exploitation of children. The European Union continued to support strongly the efforts made by the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography. There were still grounds for grave concern, however; it was to be hoped that in 2000 the work on the optional protocol would be successfully concluded. Child pornography on the Internet was a grave problem which could be effectively addressed only through strong international cooperation.

5. Another matter of grave concern to the European Union was violence in the family environment, which affected children in all parts of the world. Child abuse could be either physical or mental, and its consequences for the future development of children could be very serious. States must strive to make human rights a reality for all children and turn words into concrete actions. The European Union stressed the importance of the special session of the General Assembly to be held in 2001 and of the new global agenda for children. The European Union strongly believed that information and awareness raising were essential tools for preventing violations of the rights of the child. It must also be ensured that children and young people participated actively in the adoption of decisions that affected their everyday lives and their future; the international community should support the programmes and other actions which were initiated by children themselves. The European Union was convinced that the promotion and protection of the rights of the child was the most effective way of achieving long-term social development.

6. **Mr. Andjaba** (Namibia), speaking on behalf of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), said that since the question of the needs and rights of the child involved various agencies and bodies of the United Nations, there was a growing need for collaboration among them. Although great progress had been made all over the world over the past 10 years in raising awareness of the rights of the child and many countries had introduced concrete changes in law, policy and practice, much remained to be done in order to achieve universal application of the standards set forth in the Convention. The Plan of Action, launched in 1997, had been instrumental in providing substantive support to the Committee on the Rights of the Child and assisting States in meeting their reporting obligations and undertaking other activities to follow up the recommendations of the Committee.

7. The ongoing efforts of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to mainstream human rights in all aspects of its work, particularly by promoting an understanding of development from a human rights perspective, should be noted. The integration of human rights in the United Nations Development Assistance Framework was a tangible way to operationalize human rights for all. SADC therefore supported the Special Representative's recommendation concerning the launching of an "era of application", since words on paper could not save children and women in peril. SADC looked forward to the report on the outcome of the workshop of the Committee on the Rights of the Child on the impact of the Convention at the national and international levels 10 years after its adoption.

8. With regard to the issue of children and armed conflict, SADC commended the report of the Special Representative and believed that it was imperative to make concerted diplomatic efforts to achieve a political commitment by Governments and the United Nations to deal with that grave problem. Member States should give urgent consideration to the recommendations in the report with a view to their application.

9. With regard to the human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immune deficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS), the SADC Council of Ministers had decided to adopt measures to remove the stigma attached to the disease and had called for a broad alliance to combat AIDS in the region. Furthermore, it urged all Governments, the United Nations system, non-governmental organizations and the private sector to work closely with the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and other partners. In that respect, it welcomed the appeal of the Director-General of UNESCO for assistance to the millions of children who had been orphaned by HIV/AIDS.

10. Another important event which should be noted was the African Conference on the use of children as soldiers, held in Maputo (Mozambique). The Declaration adopted at the Conference demanded an end to that practice and called for the adoption of legal standards and measures at every level to prohibit military service by children under the age of 18. At its 17th ordinary session, the OAU Council of Ministers had expressed its satisfaction with the outcome of the Maputo meeting and recommended the establishment of a special committee on the situation of children in armed conflict. Furthermore, at the initiative of Namibia, the Security Council had held a debate on the issue and had adopted resolution 1261 (1999). SADC urged all Governments, the United Nations system and other interested parties to implement fully the provisions of the resolution. SADC looked forward with great interest to the report which the Secretary-General would submit in accordance with that resolution.

11. SADC commended the adoption of the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace and believed that the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World should be used to redouble efforts for a better world for all. The high-level activities which would take place over the next two years could lead to significant progress towards the achievement of the objectives established for children.

12. **Mr. Farar** (United States of America) said that in December 1998, on Human Rights Day, Mrs. Hillary Clinton, the First Lady, had said that although many countries had made great progress over the past 50 years in the protection of human rights, the 100 million children who lived in the streets, and the 160 million who did not attend primary school, must not be forgotten. His Government was deeply concerned about the well-being of children around the world. It therefore supported the recently adopted ILO Convention No. 182, and during President Clinton's term of office had passed several pieces of legislation designed to improve the quality of life of children. President Clinton informed ILO in Geneva that he had directed all federal agencies of the United States Government to make absolutely sure that they did not buy any products made with child labour. He was a strong advocate of universal ratification of ILO Convention No. 182 and had submitted it to the United States Senate. In the 1999 fiscal year the United States of America had increased its contribution to the ILO International Programme for the Elimination of Child Labour to about US$ 30 million. It had requested an additional US$ 30 million for 2000 and for the next four fiscal years.

13. The United States of America was also deeply concerned about trafficking in children, which every year involved one to two million women and children, who were subjected to bondage, rape, prostitution and physical brutality. In 1998 President Clinton had established a strategy focusing on prevention, protection for victims, and prosecution of traffickers. It would not be effective, however, unless countries worked together to improve the health of children around the world. The United States of America had been supporting child health programmes for the past 25 years. Currently more than four million child deaths were being prevented annually through health services provided by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

14. The United States of America welcomed the report of the Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict and strongly supported the Security Council resolution entitled "Children and armed conflict" adopted in August 1999. As Ambassador Nancy Soderberg had said in the Security Council on that occasion, the time had come to exert pressure to implement the many existing norms in order to prevent further abuse and brutalization of children, focusing on the real abuses, such as the recruitment of children under the age of 15 to participate in armed conflict.

15. Currently more than 20 civil conflicts were being waged, which had left an estimated total of 50,000 children unaccompanied or separated from their families. During the 16-year civil war in Mozambique, 200,000 children had suffered the same fate. In Croatia, Bosnia and Rwanda, 8,000 children had lost contact with their families because of war. Since 1989 the USAID Displaced Children and Orphans Fund had provided over US$ 30 million to support demobilization, rehabilitation and reintegration activities. In Angola, Liberia, northern Uganda and Sierra Leone, assistance had been provided to about 5,000 former child soldiers and other non-combatant children.

16. The plight of street children must not be forgotten; it was estimated that there were 100 million street children, in both developing and developed countries. The resources of the USAID Fund had been used in 1999 to help a new category of vulnerable children: children with disabilities. The Fund supported community-based approaches to provide care and training to them. Since 1989, over $74 million had been contributed through the Fund to programmes in 28 countries.

17. The United States of America believed that non-governmental organizations and other organizations of civil society played an indispensable role in programmes to assist children by helping to develop and strengthen the capacity of local and indigenous community-based organizations.

18. With regard to refugee children, his Government commended the work of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and UNICEF. During the 1999 fiscal year, the United States of America had contributed over $20.1 million to activities for refugee children, including $13.1 million to UNICEF programmes for displaced Kosovar

children. Furthermore, in Sierra Leone his Government had contributed $1.5 million for programmes of assistance to war-affected children. The United States of America was prepared to continue to work to improve the situation of children around the world, both bilaterally and at the international level.

19. **Crown Prince Haakon** (Norway) said that, although children were the most vulnerable section of the population, they were frequently deprived of such fundamental rights as schooling and basic health care, and many children were victims of trafficking and armed conflicts and died from curable diseases. The Convention on the Rights of the Child offered a clear framework for protecting children. The fact that all but two countries were parties to the Convention illustrated the widespread acceptance of the obligations towards children. However, Norway was concerned that some States had entered reservations which were contrary to the object and purpose of the Convention.

20. The Charter of the United Nations established that one of the purposes of the Organization was "to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war". That should be the prime concern. Instead, civilians, and among them children, had become victims of war. Norway strongly supported the work to draw up an optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on involvement of children in armed conflict. It commended the efforts of the working group and hoped that at the meeting in January 2000, agreement would be reached on prohibiting the recruitment of minors under the age of 18 to the military and their participation in armed conflict. Norway fully supported the renewal of the mandate of the Secretary-General's Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict. Children must be the prime concern in all rehabilitation and reintegration efforts, both during and in the aftermath of war. Education was one of the important aspects of those efforts. Important work was also being carried out by the working group on the optional protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography. Norway sincerely hoped that the working group would reach agreement on that instrument in the near future. At the same time, it was profoundly concerned about the continuing violation of the rights of the girl child. The Beijing Platform for Action stated that discrimination against girls began at the earliest stages of life and continued unabated throughout their lives. The girl child must be given the opportunity to participate under equal conditions in the process of social, economic and political development.

21. Norway also attached high priority to the eradication of child labour. That problem could be solved only by cooperation involving many partners, including children themselves. The best way was to provide education. Norway welcomed the adoption, in June 1999, of the ILO Convention No. 182, and hoped that it would be widely ratified.

22. An integrated global communications market had created unprecedented access to information. The possible negative effects of that situation, such as the dissemination of graphic depictions of violence and incitement to racial hatred through the electronic media, must be borne in mind. Norway believed that appropriate guidelines should be developed for the protection of the child from material injurious to his or her well-being, as stated in article 17 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child; it was the responsibility of States Parties to translate the principles of the Convention into practice. The common goal had to be to let children be children by protecting their rights.

23. **Ms. Nishitateno** (Japan) said that the near-universal ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child was a manifestation of a strong commitment to protecting and promoting the rights of children, and yet those rights continued to be violated in many parts of the world. The sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography were a major concern for Japan. In addition, advances in information technology had created new threats to the safety and dignity of children. In May 1999, Japan had enacted a law to protect children and punish acts related to child prostitution, under which soliciting children for sex, both within the country and abroad, was subject to up to three years' imprisonment. Likewise, distribution of child pornography and trafficking in children for the purposes of prostitution were severely punished. Japan hoped that the working group on the draft protocol on international trafficking in women and children, which would supplement the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, would bring its work to a successful conclusion by the year 2000. Japan also continued to support the working group for the elaboration of the optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography.

24. The plight of children affected by armed conflicts was an issue of great urgency. Her Government commended Mr. Olara Otunnu, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, for the numerous dialogues he had held with both State and non-State actors, which had frequently resulted in commitments to protect children. To ensure that those commitments were honoured, coordination with relevant United Nations organizations such as UNICEF, UNHCR, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights was essential. Security Council resolution 1261 (1999), adopted in August 1999, condemned the targeting of children in situations of armed conflict. It was the responsibility of Governments to disseminate that message as widely as possible and to implement the resolution.

25. The adoption, in June 1999, of ILO Convention No. 182 was a very important development. Concerted international efforts were critical to address the issue. Her Government would contribute to those efforts through its official development assistance.

26. The Convention on the Rights of the Child clearly indicated that children were not only to be protected because they were vulnerable, but also respected as individuals endowed with rights and human dignity. Efforts to change attitudes towards children were needed more than ever.

27. **Mr. Ka** (Senegal) said that 10 years after the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the situation of children remained very alarming in many regions of the world, including Africa, because of economic and social problems, natural disasters, armed conflicts and humanitarian crises, the exploitation of child labour, illiteracy, hunger and disease, as reflected in the reports of the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, and in the report of the Secretary-General on the status of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

28. His delegation welcomed the cooperation between the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, UNICEF, ILO and other United Nations agencies and bodies in the implementation of the Convention and of the Plan of Action of the World Summit for Children, held in New York in 1990. However, the attainment of that objective was impeded in Senegal and in other African countries by the debt burden, the sharp reduction in development assistance, the inadequate financial flows towards Africa, the shortage of direct foreign investment, and the proliferation of conflicts and humanitarian crises in the continent, as his delegation had indicated during the annual session of the UNICEF Executive Board in June 1999.

29. Nevertheless, his Government, with the support of UNICEF and other agencies, and of its development partners, was striving to implement its national plan of action for children, the main objectives of which were basic education, particularly for girls, which had shown progress in recent years; the control of endemic diseases, such as malaria and tuberculosis; the vaccination of nursing mothers under an expanded immunization programme and the campaign against HIV/AIDS, with the support of UNICEF and UNAIDS; and the reduction of maternal mortality, which was still very high. His Government also attached priority to reducing child and adolescent mortality rates and the fertility rate through the intensification of family planning campaigns, female literacy and schooling for girls. It was also striving to promote equal opportunities for both sexes and to eliminate gender disparities in the sphere of education.

30. Senegal supported the efforts of UNICEF and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict to alleviate the consequences of armed conflicts on children and prevent the separation of families, endorsed the initiatives to raise to 18 years the minimum age for recruitment into the armed forces, and welcomed the formulation by UNICEF of a programme of peace and security for children. It also welcomed the adoption by ILO, on 17 June 1999, of Convention No. 182.

31. The protection and promotion of the fundamental rights of the child, such as the right to peace, security, food, health, education and shelter, was the most pressing and noble humanitarian imperative; the achievement of that goal was the responsibility of all Governments, in a framework of cooperation and solidarity, particularly in the developing countries. His Government called for an increase in the financial resources of UNICEF and in assistance to disadvantaged countries which were striving to implement the Convention and the Plan of Action of the World Summit for Children.

32. **Ms. Nicodemos** (Brazil) said that, at the time of the commemoration of the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, it had to be recognized that despite the almost universal ratification of that instrument, the rights of the child continued to be violated throughout the world. Many children lived in abject conditions. According to the ILO Bureau of Statistics, some 120 million children between the ages of 5 and 14 were forced to work, mainly in the developing countries. It was estimated that one million children entered the illegal sex market every year. UNAIDS calculated that in 1997 alone, 500,000 infants had been infected with HIV and that almost half of all new infections, some 7,000 a day, occurred in the age range of 10 to 14 years.

33. Over the past decade, two million children had been killed in conflict situations, while currently there were over 20 million children who had been displaced by war within and outside their countries, and some 300,000 young persons under the age of 18 were being used as child soldiers around the world.

34. Considerable obstacles lay ahead in terms of translating the lofty commitments contained in the Convention into tangible reality. The full implementation of the Convention must be a priority both for individual Member States and for the international community. National efforts should be supported through international cooperation and solidarity, and the United Nations must continue to play a fundamental role.

35. Brazil welcomed the adoption of ILO Convention No. 182; its commitment to end child labour had been demonstrated by a constitutional amendment that had raised the minimum working age to 16 years. Brazil was determined to eliminate child labour not only for ethical and humanitarian reasons, but also because of its firm belief that child labour contributed to perpetuating the social conditions that generated that practice. Since education was the best tool for breaking the cycle of poverty that was usually linked to child labour, Brazil had implemented various programmes which had resulted in the achievement of almost universal access to school for children between 7 and 14. With regard to health, Brazil had attained most of the goals set by the 1990 World Summit for Children. Political decentralization had led to increased participation in the allocation of public resources, which had resulted in a sharp decrease in child mortality rates as well as in the number of children in need of health care. It was recognized, however, that further efforts were needed in respect of infant and child mortality as well as in sanitation and nutrition.

36. Brazil was concerned about the situation of children in difficult circumstances and supported the efforts of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict; the search for ways of protecting and assisting such children must continue. Brazil also fully supported the work of the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography and was truly concerned about that issue. At the international level, Brazil supported the working groups on the elaboration of the two draft optional protocols to the Convention and hoped that their work would be completed soon. At the dawn of a new millennium, the affirmation that every child represented the potential of a whole new world must be made a reality, and the international community must fulfil that promise.

37. **Ms. Toe** (Burkina Faso) said that, after ratifying the Convention on the Rights of the Child, Burkina Faso had promulgated an education act and a law on the Penal Code, with new provisions for the protection of human rights; those political advances had been made through the influence of major world trends in that sphere. Burkina Faso, which had ratified all the instruments which had followed the Declaration on the Rights of the Child and had taken part in all the activities organized since its adoption, had shown a consistent interest in the issue. For that reason, it was sparing no effort to fulfil the commitments it had undertaken in that respect, to ensure the well-being of children and accord maximum priority to the rights of the child. To that end, it had established a national mechanism for the coordination, verification and evaluation of the measures that were taken for the advancement and development of children.

38. The laws of Burkina Faso provided for the most severe punishment for sex crimes committed against children, including initiation into prostitution, and prohibited the presence of minors in all places in which prostitution, exploitation or sexual violence might occur. It was regrettable that in a world as violent as the modern world, children were the main victims of wars and their aftermath, and, as noted in the report of the Special Rapporteur, over the past 10 years, 2 million children had been killed in conflict situations, 6 million had been injured and an even greater number had suffered psychological trauma. Consequently, all

types of measures must be taken at the international level to protect children and give them the possibility of a better life. To that end, local value systems must be enhanced, families must be given responsibility for the education and health of children, juvenile justice systems must be improved, emergency assistance must be provided to children to meet their most basic needs, and groups must be established for the demobilization of child soldiers.

39. Burkina Faso supported the adoption of an optional protocol to the Convention which would raise the minimum age for recruitment to 18 years. It commended the initiatives of the Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict and of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, and the work of UNICEF, and paid tribute to all the humanitarian assistance bodies for the services they provided to children during conflicts. With regard to inhuman and degrading treatment of children, it should be noted that in many regions of the world, children were sold for the purposes of sexual or commercial exploitation, prostitution or pornography. There was an extremely urgent need to take measures to protect girls and young women forced into sexual slavery, tighten national laws on the exploitation of minors, child pornography and paedophilia, and also draw up agreements on extradition and extraterritoriality and establish a global electronic monitoring network which would make it possible to combat the abuse of the Internet and protect children, with the help of parents, public opinion, parliamentarians and the media. Prevention and education should play a dominant role, since children were the future of civilization and of all societies. Consequently, as stated in the Charter of the United Nations, there was a need to "save succeeding generations from the scourge of war".

40. **Mr. Von Kaufmann** (Canada) said that the plight of war-affected children, and in particular the emerging trend of targeting children both as combatants and as victims, was one of the most disturbing issues which had arisen in recent years. There had been too many shocking images of children victimized in armed conflicts in West Africa, Kosovo and many other parts of the world; those images were traumatic, but had served to mobilize the international community. Canada's objective was to work closely with other States, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, UNICEF and other United Nations bodies, non-governmental organizations and children themselves to put an end to the violation of children's rights in times of armed conflict. In that respect, a significant step would be the adoption of the strongest possible optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

41. Standard-setting was but one step, albeit an important one, and, as the Special Representative affirmed in his report, the time had come for the international community to launch an "era of application". Many of the abuses perpetrated against children were already clear violations of existing human rights and humanitarian law. Canada therefore supported the efforts of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General to call on States and armed groups to respect international standards, and advocated universal adherence to the new international instruments, including ILO Convention No. 182, and the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, which Canada was in the process of ratifying. Canada also supported the recommendation in the Berlin declaration on the use of child soldiers that an international conference should be held in order to take up thematic issues and issues relating to the application of measures in that sphere.

42. Despite the attention devoted to the issue by the international community, raising awareness remained a key step. In that respect, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General had highlighted a number of important initiatives which, with the help of key United Nations bodies and civil society, could make a difference. Canada was committed to participating in awareness-raising and would therefore host a workshop on war-affected children at the forthcoming Red Cross Conference in Geneva. In addition, it would sponsor a pledging exercise for war-affected children aimed at publicizing the problem and in 2000 would organize a workshop on the issue in Accra (Ghana) for West Africa. Canada welcomed the attention paid to the problem by the Security Council and recalled that, during its presidency of the Security Council, it had sponsored a debate on the protection of civilians in armed conflict and a resolution on the subject. The Security Council, which, under Namibia's presidency, had already adopted an important resolution on children in armed conflict, was currently studying measures to follow up on those initiatives.

43. An important development since the adoption of the Convention had been the increased attention paid to developing ways to end the exploitation of children. In

that respect, Canada expressed appreciation to the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography for her important work over the past year and was pleased that her report focused on the family and the relationship between domestic violence, abuse and neglect, and the susceptibility of the child to being ensnared in exploitative situations. Canada also supported the Special Rapporteur's visits to different regions and looked forward to her report, which should shed light on the nature of those problems. Her insights could assist efforts to finalize the optional protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, an important objective for Canada. In the area of child labour, Canada welcomed the unanimous adoption of ILO Convention No. 182 and would now focus on securing early ratification; it would work with ILO and other States to encourage the widest possible adherence to that instrument.

44. The special session of the General Assembly, to be held in 2001, would afford the international community an excellent opportunity to establish a new global agenda for children for the next decade. Canada was working with the five other States which had sponsored the World Summit for Children and with UNICEF and other delegations to develop the preparatory process. It believed that the session was an opportunity to look forward and make concrete progress towards the full implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and address issues which had emerged over the decade since the World Summit for Children. The meaningful participation of children and youth in the preparatory process, both nationally and internationally, and during the special session, was essential to a successful outcome. Canada believed that particular emphasis should be placed on the most vulnerable groups, such as children affected by violence, including children in situations of armed conflict, child labourers and sexually exploited children and indigenous children.

45. Canada believed that the success of almost universal adherence to the Convention on the Rights of the Child placed considerable demands on the Committee on the Rights of the Child, in terms of its capacity to review efficiently and expeditiously the reports of States Parties. Canada hoped that the other States Parties would deposit their instruments of acceptance to the amendment to increase the membership of that Committee from 10 to 18 members.

46. **Mr. Van der Wal** (Australia) reaffirmed his country's commitment to the promotion and protection of the human rights of the world's children, who were unquestionably the most vulnerable group and as such should be accorded special protection. On the eve of a new millennium, the significant progress made so far should not be overlooked, since children now occupied a central place in international consciousness, as had been acknowledged by the international community through the adoption of various international instruments such as the 1924 and 1959 Declarations on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Over the past decade, the Convention had been a significant factor in raising awareness of children's rights, in acting as a catalyst for change and in providing a practical framework for addressing the needs of children. Australia was encouraged by the fact that the Convention had achieved almost universal ratification and, in view of the tenth anniversary of its adoption, urged the few States which had not yet done so to ratify it as soon as possible.

47. On that tenth anniversary, the international community could also reaffirm its commitment by completing the negotiations on the optional protocols to the Convention concerning the involvement of children in armed conflict and the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography. Australia had always been a strong supporter of the first optional protocol, and had therefore participated actively and would continue to do so in the negotiations on the draft protocol. Australia also welcomed and supported the efforts of the chair of the working group to overcome the impasse in the negotiations through informal consultations. All the parties concerned should make a concerted effort to achieve an acceptable consensus; it was to be hoped that the States participating in the working group would match the efforts of the Chair in that respect. The goal of the negotiations was to set a new minimum age for recruitment, which was currently 15 years, and, although it might not be the perfect protocol that some wanted, it should be remembered that sometimes advances in human rights protection could be achieved only with measured steps. Australia, which was also a strong supporter of the optional protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography was disappointed at the modest progress achieved by the working group and hoped that at its next session, the working group would achieve consensus. The sexual exploitation of children was an

abuse of children's rights which was increasingly transnational in character and must therefore be the subject of stronger and more rigorous international prohibition.

48. Australia was active in responding to abuses of children's rights beyond its borders. In 1994, extra-territorial legislation had come into force to combat paedophile activities of Australian citizens or residents overseas. Australia was committed to ensuring effective operation of that legislation and there had already been a number of successful prosecutions. It was also cooperating with law enforcement agencies of other countries and was providing technical assistance to combat the sexual exploitation of children. Australia was pleased to have played an active role in the negotiation of ILO Convention No. 182, and in 1999 had enacted an amendment to the Criminal Code to give greater definition and strength to the law relating to slavery, sexual servitude and other offenses relating to the trade in people for the purposes of sexual exploitation, a phenomenon which was also increasingly international in nature.

49. Australia paid tribute to those who had worked to raise awareness of the need to improve the lives of children around the world, and in particular the Committee on the Rights of the Child, the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, and many others in the United Nations system. During the Special Rapporteur's visit to Australia in October 1999, his Government had informed her of the steps which had been taken in that respect. Mention should also be made of the many non-governmental organizations which, despite difficulties and danger, had been able to make a real difference in the day-to-day lives of many children. Lastly, Australia noted that much still needed to be done, particularly in the area of implementation of international norms, and there was no room for complacency. The impetus afforded by the tenth anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the dawning of the new millennium must be seized in order to bring into being all the rights and protections which the international community had clearly acknowledged as inalienable rights.

50. **Mr. Franco** (Colombia) said that the necessary commitment to achieve the promotion and protection of the rights of the child should be reflected in the institutional and regulatory structure of States and in the cultures of the peoples. Colombia had therefore acceded eagerly as a contracting party to various international instruments which protected the rights of minors in situations of peace and of conflict, and its Constitution afforded special protection to minors and provided for the precedence of children's rights over other rights. Despite the difficult economic and political situation, Colombia had attained most of the goals laid down by the World Summit for Children in 1990.

51. Despite those achievements, Colombia still needed to improve its educational coverage (80 per cent) and water and sanitation services for rural children (50 per cent), and reduce the infant and maternal mortality rate, and it was working with the United Nations Population Fund to that end. Emphasis was being placed on awareness-building among parents about the rights of children in a national crusade against domestic violence. In that respect Colombia was benefitting from cooperation with UNICEF, which was pursuing an identical goal through the implementation of a framework based on the rights of the child. The reference made by Mr. Otunnu in paragraph 125 of his report (A/54/430) to the sense of resignation within Colombian society was therefore surprising. On the previous Sunday over 8 million Colombians in various cities of Colombia and of the world had mobilized to make a united call to put an end to violence. Farmers, teachers, workers, students and many children had participated. Colombian society was determined to stamp out the fatalistic view described by Mr. Otunnu and to reaffirm the values of life.

52. Among the goals of peace, his Government was committed to achieving a humanitarian agreement which would prevent a deterioration of the conflict, and one of the important factors of such an agreement was the removal of minors from armed conflict. As a central part of the current peace negotiations with the guerrillas, concrete proposals had been made to the guerrilla groups which had minors in their ranks. His Government was aware of the need to ensure effective rehabilitation of minors who laid down their arms and to that end had assigned clear-cut institutional and budgetary responsibilities.

53. At the time of ratifying the Convention on the Rights of the Child, Colombia had made a reservation raising to 18 years the minimum age of recruitment and participation in hostilities. For that reason, the armed

forces did not recruit minors under the age of 18, even when they expressed the desire to join and had permission from their parents.

54. The situation of the 1,700-2,000 boys and girls who were in illegal groups and participated in activities such as the laying of landmines, intelligence work and guarding kidnap victims and also in hostilities, still gave cause for concern. In some regions of Colombia, illegal groups forced families to give up one or more of their children to join their ranks. Colombia therefore supported the three-pronged approach to put an end to the use of children as soldiers proposed by the Special Representative in paragraph 45 of his report (A/54/430): to raise the age limit for recruitment to 18, to mobilize an international movement in order to put pressure on armed groups that were using children as combatants, and to address the political, social and economic factors that facilitated the exploitation of children.

55. One of the great challenges faced by the international community was to maintain cooperation in order to attain the goals laid down at the major conferences, including the World Summit for Children, and to that end the trend towards stagnation in official development assistance must be reversed. At the same time, it was encouraging to note the commitment of the international community reflected in the statute for the International Criminal Court, which specifically envisaged punishment for those who engaged in the recruitment and enlistment of minors for the purposes of military hostilities. His Government also welcomed the establishment by ILO of an international instrument to strengthen the protection of children. Nevertheless, the international community must adopt the necessary measures to exercise effective control over small arms which, as UNICEF had noted, caused indescribable ravages among the juvenile population. That was a subject of vital importance for developing countries, in which the developed countries had special and direct responsibility. That issue should also be borne in mind in the context of achieving universal ratification of the Ottawa Convention, which Colombia strongly supported.

56. **Ms. Barker** (Jamaica) said that her Government, being desirous of attaining the goals established by the World Summit for Children, had established an inter-agency working group to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the Summit and to coordinate preparations for the special session of the General Assembly to be held in 2001 which would review achievements in relation to the goals of the Summit. Jamaica would also host the fifth hemispheric meeting of ministers with responsibility for children, in October 2000, the first time that important meeting would be held outside Latin America.

57. The increasing challenges posed by poverty, inadequate social and economic conditions and situations of armed conflict must be confronted with determination if the rights of children and of future generations were to be protected. In that respect, Jamaica continued to support the work of UNICEF and called upon donors to increase their contributions so that that work could continue without interruption.

58. With regard to the recruitment of children for armed conflict, Jamaica urged Governments and rebels to put an end to those violations of the rights of innocent children and condemned those practices, while expressing its deep concern about the lack of compliance with international humanitarian and human rights instruments, particularly those prohibiting the use of children as combatants in armed conflicts. Jamaica welcomed the adoption of several international instruments on the protection of the rights of the child, the most recent of which was ILO Convention No. 182. However, the achievement of an acceptable level of protection required strong political will on the part of States to ensure the effective implementation of the Convention.

59. Child prostitution, child trafficking and the recruitment of children to serve as soldiers in armed conflicts powerfully demonstrated the need for urgent action involving effective partnership between Governments, non-governmental organizations and civil society. As Ms. Carol Bellamy, Executive Director of UNICEF, had noted in that regard, globalization had led to increasing disputes between nations, which had immediate effects on children.

60. Jamaica viewed with concern the erosion of the family environment caused by the social and cultural changes of recent years and stressed the need to protect the institution of the family in order to prevent child abuse. All States should therefore give urgent attention to the need for the implementation of appropriate policy reforms to enhance the education of parents and, by extension, the education of children.

61. Her Government had undertaken a number of measures to enhance awareness of children's rights and

fulfil its commitments to promoting and protecting those rights. It was currently taking various steps to ensure compulsory attendance at school with a view to achieving significantly improved levels of literacy by 2001. It had also undertaken several initiatives under the National Children and Youth at Risk Programme in order to enhance domestic strategies and legislative reform with a view to protecting children's rights and promoting the implementation of the Convention. To that end, special attention had been given to the establishment and maintenance of a child support unit that served as a mechanism for collaboration between the Government and non-governmental child-related agencies. A charter of fundamental rights was being prepared in order to ensure that the rights of children were enshrined in the Constitution and a child protection act was being enacted. A national policy for the improvement of the treatment of children under the care of the juvenile justice system was also being implemented.

62. Her Government was taking urgent steps to resolve the difficulties related to respect for the basic rights of children held in protective custody. Those steps included the introduction of a juvenile justice policy in keeping with international treaties and standards. In addition, the authorities were incorporating in the curriculum of the police training school a protocol on the arrest and detention of children. Police training manuals were being drawn up containing elements of the standards and guidelines of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

63. **Ms. Paterson** (New Zealand) drew attention to the importance of the Convention on the Rights of the Child as the most universally ratified of the human rights conventions; the vast majority of the world's children lived in States that were legally obliged to protect their rights. Nevertheless, the full attainment of children's rights remained a challenge for all States, since children continued to be used in armed conflicts and to be exploited for their labour and for sexual purposes. All that underlined the importance of developing new standards to further enhance the legal protection for children at risk and of progressing in the negotiations on the two optional protocols to the Convention. Urgent action was required on the part of the international community to conclude those optional protocols in view of the slow progress made, despite the broad agreement which had been reached on the need to protect children from armed conflicts, as had been apparent during the debate held in the Security Council. New Zealand recognized the efforts of the Chairman of the working group, Mr. von Heidenstam of Sweden, in that respect, and encouraged States to work with him to bridge their differences and reach consensus on an agreed text. In that regard, her delegation drew attention to the work of the Special Representative, Mr. Otunnu, who had raised the profile of the issue of child soldiers, and the role played by UNICEF in assisting the child victims of conflicts.

64. States were also in general agreement that children should be protected from sexual exploitation, and it was recognized that sex tourism and new technologies had increased the risks for vulnerable children. New Zealand encouraged States to work together at the forthcoming meeting of the working group on the second optional protocol to conclude an instrument which reflected the guardianship role which States must fulfil in relation to children. It would be important to ensure that the standards which were developed internationally to respond to the problem of the exploitation of children were complementary and were based on the fundamental principles of the Convention, and of other United Nations human rights instruments. New Zealand welcomed the recent conclusion of ILO Convention No. 182 as a positive step in the protection of children.

65. In the context of the five-year review of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action which would take place in 2000, New Zealand urged States to implement the commitments laid down in the Platform for Action in relation to the girl child. Also in 2000 New Zealand would present its second report to the Committee on the Rights of the Child, based on the principle that the Convention was a tool for developing child and youth policies.

66. **Mr. Eshikuta** (Kenya) said that Kenya would continue to support the work of the Secretary-General and his Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict and encouraged the continuation of the cooperation between the Office of the Special Representative and the specialized agencies and programmes of the United Nations system.

67. On the eve of the new millennium, it was appalling to witness the horrors to which children were being subjected. In the past decade alone, two million children had been killed, over one million had been orphaned, six million had been seriously injured or

permanently disabled, 12 million had been made homeless and 10 million had been left with serious psychological trauma. Young girls in particular had been the targets of rape and other forms of sexual violence on a large scale. Currently half the total population of refugees and internally displaced persons in the world were children. An estimated 800 children were killed or maimed by landmines every month. In about 50 countries around the world, some 300,000 children under the age of 18 were involved in armed conflicts and were suffering the consequences of serving as child soldiers.

68. Africa had a particular interest in the issue of children in armed conflicts, since more and more children were being compelled to participate in wars, and were recruited or kidnapped to become child soldiers. In addition, the easy availability of arms had the potential to destabilize the whole region. Governments must protect children and safeguard their future, and all the parties concerned must comply with their obligations under existing international law, particularly under the 1949 Geneva Convention and its additional protocols of 1977 and the Convention on the Rights of the Child. One way to help children would be to encourage training and capacity-building in trauma counselling and rehabilitation for those who dealt with children in post-conflict situations. There was a need to assess and address the impact of emotional damage resulting from the violation of children's rights. The international community, through an approach which combined the elements of social policy, political will and economic and financial commitment, could help solve that problem. In addition, the construction of schools and hospitals must be financed in order to cater specifically to the needs of children.

69. **Ms. Faetanini** (San Marino) said that the victims of modern wars were almost exclusively civilians; women and children paid the highest price. International law was not sufficient to resolve that situation; San Marino therefore welcomed the launching of an "era of application" as proposed by the Special Representative in his report. It was crucial at present that the international community should use all its power; now was the time to exert and increase pressure and use the existing legal tools. Although progress had been made with the Statute of the International Criminal Court and ILO Convention No. 182, San Marino urged the working group on the elaboration of an optional protocol on involvement of children in armed conflict to come to a conclusion in favour of an international ban on the enlistment of child soldiers under the age of 18. San Marino welcomed Security Council resolution 1261 (1999) adopted in August 1999.

70. With regard to the use of children in pornography, prostitution and forced labour, and other kinds of abuse, San Marino supported the efforts of the Special Rapporteur to explore the link between early abuse in the home and ill-treatment later in life.

71. San Marino welcomed the effective initiatives of WHO and UNICEF, such as the "days of tranquillity" and the "corridors of peace". Her delegation also believed that it was important to restore a "measure of normalcy" since children needed a balance between schooling and entertainment in order to regain their trust in adults and in themselves. San Marino therefore supported the training of trauma counsellors and the "Voice of Children" project.

72. It was not acceptable for children to be safe only within peace zones. Children were de facto zones of joy, peace and beauty, and any attempt to harm them was a crime against humanity which deserved the strongest highest political action. The inevitability of war was a myth which must be rejected. She announced that her Government had decided to make a voluntary contribution for the protection of children affected by armed conflict and landmine activities.

73. **Mr. Chowdhury** (Bangladesh) said that the near-universal ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child was not enough; it must be translated into concrete action. Bangladesh commended UNICEF, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and ILO for their recent actions to promote and protect the rights of the child. Much more needed to be done to attain the goals established at the World Summit for Children, and Bangladesh looked forward to the special session of the General Assembly in 2001. At the national level, Bangladesh had adopted a plan of action for children for the period 1997-2002 in order to implement the goals of the Summit and the provisions of the Convention.

74. With regard to child labour, the South Asian Governments had adopted the year 2000 as the deadline for ending child labour in hazardous or bonded conditions and 2010 for its total eradication. Bangladesh had already succeeded in abolishing child labour in the garment industry, its largest export sector.

75. Bangladesh commended the report of the Special Representative (A/54/430) and had given careful consideration to his recommendations. In that regard, it fully supported the Special Representative's call for launching an "era of application", the adoption of special measures to protect children during conflicts and post-conflict peace building and to ensure the safety of children affected by sanctions, and the regeneration of local value systems destroyed by conflicts. The promotion of a culture of peace would contribute greatly towards that end. Bangladesh also supported the view that the root causes of conflicts needed to be addressed.

76. Bangladesh shared the concern of the Special Rapporteur about the misuse of the Internet in respect of child trafficking and sexual abuse. In that context, it welcomed the UNESCO initiative entitled "Innocence in Danger." At the same time, action needed to be taken at the national, regional and global levels to prevent those crimes. The Heads of State and Government of the South Asian countries had endorsed a regional convention in support of women and children. At the global level, efforts must be made to complete the work on the draft optional protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography.

77. **Ms. Amorim** (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) said that UNESCO had always given an important place to the child in its programmes and activities and, by virtue of its constitutional mandate, was committed to promoting the rights of the child through education. General Assembly resolution 52/107 entitled "The rights of the child" reflected many of its concerns regarding the crucial role of education in the promotion and protection of the rights of the child; much of the work of UNESCO was concerned with education, notably the Education for All initiatives on discrimination in education (in particular, encouraging girls' education), programmes targetted at street children or children in especially difficult circumstances, and programmes aimed at fostering the teaching of the values of tolerance, peace and respect.

78. On the tenth anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, she wished to highlight three UNESCO activities: the organization, on 18-19 January 1999, of an experts' meeting on the sexual abuse of children, child pornography and paedophilia on the Internet and the launching of a world citizens' movement to protect innocence in danger aimed at sensitizing world public opinion and mobilizing human, technical and financial resources; the convening, in Paris, from 21 to 27 October, in conjunction with the French National Assembly, of a World Parliament of Children, which had brought together some 400 girls and boys from all UNESCO Member States to participate in a process of reflection and dialogue aimed at producing a youth manifesto for the twenty-first century, as a contribution to the programme "For a culture of peace and non-violence" to be coordinated by UNESCO within the framework of the International Year for the Culture of Peace and the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World; and the publication of a small booklet of poems and drawings illustrating the 10 principles of the Declaration on the Rights of the Child.

79. The main objectives of UNESCO for the next few years included consolidating non-formal early childhood care and education programmes in Member States, reinforcing the status of family education in that respect and promoting those programmes as a complement to formal education.

Agenda item 107: Crime prevention and criminal justice (*continued*)

Draft resolution A/C.3/54/L.22

80. **Ms. Toe** (Burkina Faso), introducing, on behalf of the Group of African States, draft resolution A/C.3/54/L.22 entitled "African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders", read out the following revisions: a new paragraph 3 should be added, which would read as follows: "Regrets the lack of adequate support and financial assistance for the Institute despite repeated calls over the past years to make available the necessary resources to UNAFRI". The old paragraph 3 would become paragraph 7. In paragraph 4, at the end of the third line, the words "in the implementation of" should be added after the word "and"; the rest of the paragraph would remain the same. A new paragraph 5 should be added, which would read as follows: "Requests the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Centre as well as the United Nations International Drug Control Programme and relevant entities of the United Nations system to provide the necessary financial and technical support to the Institute to enable it to fulfil its mandate". The old paragraph 3 would become

paragraph 7 and would read as follows: "*Urges* the States members of the Institute to make every possible effort to meet their obligations to the Institute". The numbering of the paragraphs after the new paragraph 7 would be adjusted accordingly.

81. She expressed the hope that, as in the past, the draft resolution would be adopted without a vote. The Group of African States called on the Committee to give full support to the draft resolution and to the Institute by making available sufficient resources to enable it to carry out its work of crime prevention and control in Africa.

Agenda item 109: Advancement of women (*continued*)

Draft resolution A/C.3/54/L.19

82. **Ms. Paterson** (New Zealand), introducing draft resolution A/C.3/54/L.19 entitled "Improvement of the status of women in the Secretariat", said that the following countries had become sponsors: Austria, Belgium, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Côte d'Ivoire, Denmark, Eritrea, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Iceland, India, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Netherlands, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Rwanda, Samoa, Senegal, Solomon Islands, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Tunisia, Uzbekistan, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Venezuela, Viet Nam and Yemen.

83. She read out the following revisions to the text of the draft resolution: after the second preambular paragraph, a new preambular paragraph should be added, which would read as follows: "*Taking into account* the continuing lack of representation or under-representation of women from certain countries, in particular from developing countries, including *inter alia* least developed countries and small island developing States, and from countries with economies in transition". After the sixth preambular paragraph, a seventh preambular paragraph should be added, which would read as follows: "*Further concerned* that some existing arrangements with Member States may impede the employment of spouses of United Nations staff members". The objective of the draft resolution continued to be the achievement of a 50/50 gender balance in all categories of posts within the United Nations system, especially at the D-1 level and above; she expressed the hope that the draft resolution would be adopted by consensus.

Agenda item 115: Right of peoples to self-determination (*continued*)

Draft resolution A/C.3/54/L.25

84. **Mr. Bahtti** (Pakistan), introducing, on behalf of the sponsors, the draft resolution entitled "Universal realization of the right of peoples to self-determination", said that Djibouti, El Salvador, Malaysia, Mali, Morocco, Papua New Guinea, Thailand, United Arab Emirates and Viet Nam had become sponsors. The text of the draft resolution was similar to that of General Assembly resolution 53/134, except that in the third preambular paragraph the phrase "an increasing number of" had been omitted. In addition, some editorial changes had been made. He hoped that the draft resolution would be adopted by consensus.

Agenda item 108: International drug control (*continued*)

Draft resolution A/C.3/54/L.20

85. **Mr. Albin** (Mexico), introducing, on behalf of the sponsors, the draft resolution entitled "International cooperation against the world drug problem", said that Croatia, Gabon, Guinea, Iceland, Latvia, Malaysia, Niger and Turkey had become sponsors, so that the sponsors of the draft resolution now represented all the regions of the world. He requested the Secretariat to correct section III, paragraph 11 of the draft resolution, which did not exactly correspond to the text which had been negotiated and agreed on by the sponsors. Specifically, the last lines of that paragraph should read as follows:

> "... and, in this context, recalls the holding of the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth, in Lisbon, from 8 to 12 August 1998, and also recalls the holding of the Third World Youth Forum of the United Nations System, in Braga, Portugal, from 2 to 7 August 1998".

86. The draft resolution was the result of significant negotiating efforts; it was the seventh time that a general draft resolution on the agenda item was being submitted to the General Assembly. One year after the historic agreements reached during the twentieth

special session of the General Assembly, objectives which had previously seemed unimaginable were beginning to be attained. In that context, he stressed the unanimous adoption of the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction, which was annexed to the draft resolution. That was the first global action plan for demand reduction and the first concrete result of the special session. The Plan of Action identified the commitments which needed to be undertaken by countries in order to reduce the demand for drugs and set forth actions and measures for the achievement of that objective before 2008. With the adoption of that plan, the United Nations would demonstrate its support for public health policies and programmes as essential elements for combating the problem. He recalled that the Commission on Narcotic Drugs had recommended the adoption of the Plan of Action to the Economic and Social Council and that the Council, in turn, had recommended that the General Assembly should adopt it as document A/C.3/54/L.7. The sponsors believed that, in order to maintain the integral character of the draft resolution, the recommendation by the Economic and Social Council should be included in section II, so that the General Assembly would take steps in respect of the Plan of Action, and it would be unnecessary to take any decision on document A/C.3/54/L.7. Lastly, he expressed appreciation for the constructive spirit and cooperation of all delegations which had participated in the formulation of the draft resolution and expressed confidence that it would be adopted by consensus.

The meeting rose at 6 p.m.